

Dvorak Developments

Incorporating Quick Strokes

Volume XII, Numbers 2, 3 and 4 1984 Fall, 1985 Winter & Spring

So Sorry

Much has been happening at this newsletter. First, we've changed names — from *Quick Strokes* to *Dvorak Developments* — to reflect the trend in our reporting. We want to keep you informed as to what is happening in the Dvorak world.

There is also a change in ownership of the newsletter. Phil Davis has been slowed down quite a bit after an auto accident where he broke his arm. He has been unable to keep up-to-date with his correspondence and publishing. If you have written him recently and haven't heard back, take heart; he'll get to you as soon as he is able. This is the last issue where Phil will serve as publisher, but he will remain a big part of the newsletter as a contributing editor. Orders for back issues of *Quick Strokes* should be sent to Phil.

We have been off schedule during our reorganization, but we will be publishing regularly from now on. We are sorry for the delay in getting this issue to you.

Starting with this issue a new editor, Randy Cassingham, has taken over production. Randy is a freelance writer and photographer and has been writing on the ANSI standard layout since he converted his computer, an Osborne Executive, last year. (Write him if you have that model, he has a good program). Starting with the next issue, Randy will be taking over as publisher. Subscription renewals will go to him. See the masthead (on the back page) for new rates — the *subscription rates will be going down* while we promote the newsletter to build up circulation. Now is the time to renew and give gift subscriptions (like to your local library). Your help to support the only newsletter for the Dvorak movement will be *greatly* appreciated.

We are always keeping our eyes open for items for us to publish for everyone who reads *Dvorak Developments*. Please send information about Dvorak applications you know about, and copies of articles on the simplified layout you find in the periodicals you read directly to Randy. His address: P.O. Box 717, Arcata CA 95521.

Finally, we are no longer *officially* connected with the Dvorak International Federation (PO Box 128, Brandon VT 05733). We enjoy good relations with them, but the newsletter will be an independent operation. DIF remains the clearing house on Dvorak information. We will be in constant contact with them, and we'll report on their latest efforts. Expect to read a lot about them in the next issue.

Current Dvorak Products

Several products are available to support your Dvorak habit.

Camwil, 875 Waimanu St, Honolulu HI 96813, (800) 367-5675, who makes the Dvorak type balls for the IBM Selectric, has announced that they are making printwheels to fit Qume, Diablo, Lanier, Canon, Vydec and other Qume/Diablo compatible typing systems. The printwheels are available in both classic Dvorak and ANSI styles and cost \$65. They will also custom manufacture wheels for other machines with a starting setup cost of \$900.

SureStroke, published by Seasoned Systems, runs on IBM and compatible computers. The program resides in memory and 're-maps' the keyboard to the Dvorak layout. It comes with stick on letters for the keys and a tutorial program to help you convert to Dvorak. Their address: Box 3720, Chapel Hill NC 27514, (800) 334-5531.

Rosesoft, 4710 University Way N.E. Suite 601, Seattle WA 98105, (206) 524-2350, recently announced an upgrade of their ProKey software for the IBM and compatibles. ProKey is a keyboard 'macro' program that also re-maps the keyboard to Dvorak.

Software Research Technologies, 3757 Wilshire Blvd Suite 211, Los Angeles CA 90010, (213) 384-5430, just dropped the price of their SmartKey II, another keyboard macro program for IBM and compatibles and CP/M machines (both CP/M versions 2 and 3 are now supported). The program now lists for \$49. Their Smartprint program is thrown in for free as a bonus.

QED Information Sciences, PO Box 151, Wellesley MA 02181, (800) 343-4848, announced a typing course, "Typing made easy on the Dvorak keyboard." It is a computer-based self-teaching program for touch typing on the Dvorak. It runs on IBMs and compatibles, the PC AT, and the PCjr.

Replacement keyboards for IBM computers and compatibles with the Dvorak layout are stock items at Keytronic, PO Box 14687, Spokane WA 99214, (800) 262-6006. We'll report on other brands of replacement keyboards as we get brochures.

See your computer dealer for details on the computer products.

Typing Contest Discrimination

A speed typing contest was held in April, and Dvorak operators were excluded from the competition.

World Champion typist Barbara Blackburn, who currently can type 196 net WPM on the Dvorak keyboard for a 15 minute test, received an invitation to compete, but only if she typed on the typewriter supplied by Xerox that didn't have Dvorak capability. Barbara gracefully declined, pointing out that she was "a confirmed, devoted and DEVOUT Dvorak keyboard typist — I have been for 47 years — and there is absolutely no way that I would ever consider subjecting my nervous system, my brain, or any portion of my being to the cumbersomeness of the standard (Qwerty) keyboard."

The contest was won, according to newspaper accounts, by Linda Williams of Dublin, Calif., who typed a mere 126.2 NWPM.

If you wish to make comment to the organizers, write to Florence Scharf, Director of Public Relations, Staff Builders Inc., 122 E. 42nd Street, New York NY 10017, or write to the Xerox corporation, who sponsored the contest.

Dvorak and TRS-80

After reading *Quick Strokes* for 1982 Winter and 1984 Summer, **Waldo T. Boyd** of Geyersville, Calif., remarks that there are two patches to convert to the Dvorak arrangement using *Scriptit* on the TRS-80 computer, and offers to clear the confusion.

"Your readers may have *Scriptit* 1.0 TRSDOS 2.0 in use and, if so, they need a different patch," Boyd says, than the one published in the 1984 Summer QS. The patch for *Scriptit* 1.0 is:

PATCH SCRIPSIT.CMD A=DDFA F=D7 C=D8

The other patch is for the floppy disk *Scriptit* only on the Model II, 12, or 16 computers. The patch was published in QS 41 (1984 Summer) and is only for *Scriptit* on a hard or thinline disk. That patch is:

PATCH SCRIPSIT.CMD A=3D0D F=D8 C=D9

Boyd is a member of the Authors League of America and of Science Fiction Writers of America.

Dvorak Information and Products . . .

The 1974 Western Electric Report — nine pages in photocopy. A report of hands-on experience in retraining from Qwerty to Dvorak and deemed "inconclusive" at the time. This application foreran the present extensive application in directory assistance centers. \$4.50

Videotape for Rent — "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One." narrated by Albert C. Kolb of the Carmel (Calif.) Middle School. Fourteen minutes 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate on interesting alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. VHS cassette. \$10 per week, no tax.

Split Screen Film shows motions of conventional and Dvorak operators. Silent black and white "Motion Study of the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard." Produced 1942 by R. M. Barnes and August Dvorak. Per Week. \$10, no sales tax.

Dvorak Keyboard information. \$6 for packet of Dvorak. "There is a Better Typewriter Keyboard" reprint and two issues of *Quick Strokes*. The Dvorak booklet gives the rationale for Dvorak keying and a survey of Oregon applications.

In Mint Condition — A few copies of the seminal work. "Typewriting Behavior" by Dvorak, Dealey, Merrick, and Ford. Hard cover, 521 pages including index and appendix, it comprises the team's report to the Carnegie Foundation in 1936. Long out of print. \$30.

Starting Manual for Alternate Keying "Simplified Keyboard Supplement" by August Dvorak and others. It merges with any full-length typing manual or other practice material. \$3.

Dvorak Element for IBM Selectrics Pica or Elite. fits Selectric I and II. Arrangement is close to the classic Dvorak, with digits reading 7-5-3-1-9-8-6-4-2-0. \$111. A starting manual. "Simplified Keyboard Supplement." is included. Delivery in three weeks after receipt of order and payment.

All available from *Quick Strokes*, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. For shipments to California, add 6% sales tax unless otherwise noted.

State and County Civil Service Jobs

by Christiana Bell
as told to Phil Davis

On the advice of a friend who works for Sacramento County, I underwent a job interview and examination.

I explained to the interviewer that I had successfully forgotten my mediocre skill on the conventionally arranged typewriter and that my Dvorak skill, learned while an employee at *Quick Strokes*, was about 35 words per minute. I told him I owned a Dvorak-arranged Smith-Corona Electra with Pica type and asked him if it would be all right to use it for work.

"Would you be willing," the interviewer asked, "to bring that machine with you to work every day and take it home at the end of each shift?" I said I would. "Then there is no barrier," he said.

My aspiration is work as a fashion and photography model. My clerical skill, I hope, will tide me over until modeling engagements are frequent enough to keep me and my two-year-old daughter going.

Since the interview with the county, I have learned that carrying the machine back and forth is all that the state agencies require (probably for insurance reasons) for me to use my Dvorak typewriter. Their examinations should be comparable to those given by county agencies.

So if you think a potential employer wouldn't be willing to provide you with a Dvorak keyboard-equipped typewriter, think about offering to bring in your own!

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Can You Find a Dvorak Typewriter?

"At present," writes Jeanne Cherry of Santa Monica, Calif., "I have an IBM PC with a KeyTronic Dvorak keyboard which I like very much." She is considering equipping herself with a typewriter and "would definitely want a Dvorak keyboard" if she got one.

Ever since the advent of electronic character selection (about 1956) more and more keyboard devices with that feature have come onto the market. This provides the method, via read-only storage (ROM) or software, for changing the arrangement of the keyboard that is quick and easy.

Many typewriters have such a ROM, and it should be relatively simple to alter it to the Dvorak arrangement. If you want a typewriter with a Dvorak keyboard, write to the typewriter company of your choice and make your desire known.

One authority on ROM programming is Mike Schmitt of Daystar Computer Systems, 222 West Adams, Chicago, Ill., 60606. Telephone (312) 726-0197.

Another Dvorak Frontier: Alaska

The University of Alaska at Juneau is ready for the Dvorak revolution. Associate Professor of Office Administration Sharon L. Cook writes,

"I am extremely interested in the DSK/ASK keyboard and understand you have information on instructional materials and hardware.

"I would like to receive any information you could share with us. We have just implemented an IBM PC networked lab and in addition have purchased two KeyTronics DSK keyboards. We feel this alternative to the (Qwerty) keyboard is now a viable choice for the office worker to us."

Dvorak Developments applauds schools who are taking an early lead in the changeover to the more productive keyboard. We only wish there were more teachers like Cook.

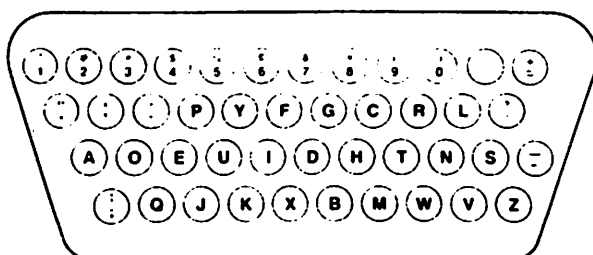
Dvorak on your Commodore

Thanks to an alert reader, A.J. Leyland of Vancouver, Washington, for sending an advertisement clipped from *Computers and Electronics* for Q.A.D. Systems, 342 East Schrock Road, Waterville, Ohio 43081.

Their Q-Vert package consists of a 'Q-Sub' subroutine that can be copied and incorporated into any user program to permit Dvorak input on Commodore models C-64 and Vic-20 computers.

A tutor, Q-Vert Mentor, converts the keyboard to a Dvorak layout and takes the user through 26 programs in five levels, making use of sound and graphics.

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Is California Next?

Charles Gordon, a supervisor in the library at Humboldt State University on California's north coast, is designing a system of networked microcomputers for library use. He will be installing software that allows selection of the Dvorak layout.

Gordon, who has been interested in the Dvorak for several years, sent an "employee suggestion" for productivity increase to the state merit award board, suggesting the entire state of California "implement a gradual conversion to a more ergonomic arrangement of the keys for the typist" — the Dvorak keyboard. He cited the ease of learning, lessened fatigue, and speed as advantages. He concluded by saying "it is time to improve the operation of (the) human element and save the state millions of dollars."

"I would be surprised if it hasn't been suggested before," Gordon said, but he thinks the time is right — now that word processors and computers, which are easy to convert to Dvorak, are replacing typewriters in state offices. As a transcriber in the past, Gordon said his fingers often ached after an eight-hour day. "I believe that fingers cover 15 miles on Qwerty," he said. He thought the state might save money on disability if they switched because Dvorak's lessened finger travel might reduce finger joint disorders.

Now that an official, written suggestion has been made to the state, they will likely have to look into the benefit of conversion. If you work for a government agency or large company, a similar employee suggestion program might be the way for you to get them to try the Dvorak. Some programs award a bonus if the suggestion saves money.

Not all Directory Assistance Operators use Dvorak

One of the most extensive applications of the Dvorak layout is by directory assistance operators. Before the AT&T breakup last year, 14,000 Dvorak equipped computer terminals were installed for these workers, whose jobs are quite keyboard intensive. It pays to get these people off the telephone as quickly as possible and on to the next customer.

But in California, things don't seem to be as progressive. A check with Pacific Bell's public relations office finds a completely different computer keyboard in use.

The PR spokesperson seemed to know quite a bit about what the Dvorak was, but according to her directory assistance operators in California use keyboards with an *alphabetic* arrangement. The spokesperson said that arrangement was chosen "so the terminals would be easier for non-typists to use".

Unfortunately for Pacific Bell, alphabetic arrangements are counter-productive, according to a study by the University of California at San Diego. That study showed that the alphabetical arrangement did not help typists find letters easier than on, for instance, the Qwerty keyboard. In the study, most of the subjects even preferred a random arrangement over the alphabetical keyboards.

Since many workers may already know how to type on the Qwerty or Dvorak keyboards, an alphabetical arrangement will just slow those workers down. Not smart for a company trying to save its customer's money.

A more realistic approach is to introduce Dvorak keyboards into keyboard intensive installations. The Dvorak is easier for the non-typists to learn, and once mastered will enable the most productive work to be done.

The Qwerty layout was also briefly studied in the UCSD experiment, though none of the experimental subjects chose it as a preferred layout over the alphabetical or even the random layouts. The Dvorak keyboard was not studied.

ANSI Dvorak Coronamatic typewriter and case, new, \$325
 HERE COMES THE SK, 39 page book, new supplement, \$2
 MANAGING THE SK, 20 pages, with the new supplement, \$1
 Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., Scarborough, ME 04074

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Dvorak-Related Products and Information

Replacement Computer Keyboards — Conversion Software
 Write for Information, Product List:
 Randy Cassingham - PO Box 717 - Arcata, CA 95521

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Bibliographic Notes

The Dvorak arrangement has seen a lot of coverage in the popular media lately. In addition to numerous radio interviews with Virginia Russell, president of the Dvorak International Federation, the following articles have appeared recently:

- *Today's Office*, January 1985
- *Personal Computing*, January 1985 (story on Barbara Blackburn). Barbara was also featured typing at 200 WPM on a TV commercial for the Apple II-C computer, which has a switch by the keyboard that converts it to Dvorak. The Dvorak keyboard was not mentioned, however.
- *Writer's Digest*, March 1985 (see also the letters to the editor in the June issue).
- *Industry Week*, March 18, 1985
- *San Francisco Examiner/Chronicle* (Punch section), Sunday April 21, 1985. (Reprint of an article from the *Washington Post* that was circulated to many papers in April.)
- *Science Digest*, January 1984
- *High Technology*, January 1983

Another 'World's Fastest' Claim

In the March 8, 1985 issue of *TypeWorld*, a newspaper for word processor professionals and typesetters, was a mention of the "World's Fastest Keyboarder" Marilyn Vosler.

Marilyn's actual speed wasn't measured, but *TypeWorld*, who apparently sponsored the contest, noted that "we estimate that she inputs in excess of 127 WPM."

It seems to *Dvorak Developments* that before publishing such a claim, a contest organizer should at least check with *The Guinness Book of World Records*. They would find that their champion isn't even close to being 'fastest'.

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